



## **Clean Energy Future Committee Meeting Minutes**

*Draft – for approval at the 06-24-2022 meeting*

May 27, 2022

8:15 – 9:30 a.m.

Virtual Meeting – Hosted on Zoom

Members present: Coralie Cooper (as Chair), Jim DiTullio, Dave Levy, Pasi Miettinen, Marc Breslow, Shelly Dein, David Morgan, Eric Helmuth, Dan Amstutz (arrived late)

Also attending: Gene Benson, Jacob Glickel, Sandra Frawley, Annie McGaffigan, Susan Keane

Members not present: Ryan Katofsky, Adam Chapdelaine, Nellie Aikenhead

The meeting convened at 8:15 a.m.

### **Video Meeting Procedures**

Ms. Cooper read a set of prepared remarks explaining the procedures that the Committee would follow to hold a virtual meeting. Governor Baker signed an Executive Order in response to the COVID-19 pandemic allowing virtual meetings, which suspended the usual Open Meeting Law requirement that a quorum of committee members be physically present in order to hold an official committee meeting.

### **Meeting Minutes**

The Committee reviewed meeting minutes from the April 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Ms. Cooper asked for comments. There were no comments, corrections, or additions. Ms. Dein motioned to approve the minutes as written. Ms. Fox seconded the motion. Pasi Miettinen abstained since he was absent at the meeting. The remaining Committee approved the April 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting minutes.

Mr. DiTullio stated that remote meeting flexibilities are in place through July 15th unless the legislature makes a change to extend the provision allowing virtual meetings. If the legislature doesn't act, we'll need to discuss what to do for the July meeting. Mr. Helmuth said the open meeting law allows members of the public to participate remotely. The Town Counsel is expected to provide guidance. It is uncertain the extent to which town members can participate remotely. Members of the public can participate remotely. We may need to meet in person in July. Even with a hybrid option, a quorum will be needed. Mr. Levy asked if we could meet outside in July. Ms. Fox added that since the CEFC often cancels either the July or August meeting, we could plan on

cancelling the July meeting if we don't have guidance. Ms. Cooper added that we will discuss the topic at the June CEFC meeting.

Update from Town Meeting:

- Ms. Cooper stated the solar bylaw article 30 passed by a wide margin at Town Meeting. Jim DiTullio said that Gene Benson was very adept at answering questions at Town Meeting. He said Ms. Dein and others deserve a lot of credit for shepherding the warrant article and that many questions had already been vetted before the warrant article reached Town Meeting. Mr. Levy said people were very receptive to the warrant article and the warrant article is a great win for the CEFC. Mr. Benson said Town Meeting members voted 208 in favor and 16 against. Mr. Benson thanked Ms. Dein, Ms. Fox, Mr. Levy, Ms. Cooper, and the rest of the CEFC that had worked on the article. Mr. Benson said there were questions about exemptions from the solar requirement and what exemptions the Historic Districts Commission will allow. The warrant article requires solar on the roof of any project that comes before the redevelopment board for environmental design review. There are exemptions for buildings that can't structurally support the array or if it is facing in the wrong direction. It requires at least 50% of the roof to be covered. It doesn't specify solar PV, so it could be solar thermal. Mr. Benson added that this week the redevelopment board approved a special permit in an industrial zone. The developer agreed to put solar on the roof and this is in the special permit. Ms. Cooper added Arlington is the third municipality in the Commonwealth to have this requirement. Ms. Cooper thanked Mothers out Front for outreach and suggested we see if the Town Meeting Members who voted against received emails as part of our outreach. Mr. Levy suggested we look at increasing carport arrays since this is a perfect place for solar, possibly for 2023 items for the CEFC. Ms. Dein said there is a ready audience in Town Meeting for environmental work and the CEFC should be more ambitious in the future. Ms. Cooper said that ISO New England put out an announcement that rooftop solar reduced electricity usage to the lowest rate ever during one day in May. Rooftop solar can reduce the amount of green space that is used for solar arrays, Mr. Benson stated. Mr. Helmuth stated several 40B applications are expected which could be an opportunity for more rooftop solar. Ms. Fox stated that a resident participant in the Arlington Community Education "Solar Panel Panel" said the Town should support residents as they navigate the installation of solar panels.
- Updates from Workgroups:
  - o Electrify Arlington – Ms. Fox provided an update. There is a solid website draft that will be located on the Town's website. It will direct people to various resources on electrification and efficiency. Another piece is potential for a partnership with All in Energy which helps with intake and channeling people into the Mass Save program. They specialize in working with low-income populations. There will also be a volunteer coaching service which Electrify Arlington is working on with HeatSmart Alliance and Abode. There will be a soft launch with the website this

summer and then coaching service this fall. ACMi videos are also being developed this summer.

- Please let Brucie Moulton know if you would like your system to be featured in an ACMI video.
- Resolution on the Net Zero Stretch Code – will be very late in Town Meeting. Mr. DiTullio said there will be two speakers, one for and one against. Mr. DiTullio said he doesn't expect much opposition. Mr. Levy may not be able to attend if it comes up on June 6th. Mr. Levy will let Mr. Hanlon know if he can't attend a Town Meeting when the Resolution may come up.
- ACE – a contract was signed in early May. The Town and the CEFC reached the 30% goal for additional clean energy. Thanks to Ryan Katofsky and the Select Board and Mothers Out Front. There will have to be a fairly large campaign to explain the additional renewable energy and pricing. Mr. Helmuth said that constituent outreach was very effective at convincing the Select Board to approve the higher rate.
- Ms. Fox met with an Historic Districts Commission (HDC) representative and discussed how we might review the HDC guidelines to determine whether updates are needed. A small working group will look at which components present challenges for energy efficiency and electrification.

### **Priorities for Next Year**

Ms. Cooper noted the CEFC accomplishments for the past year: the new ACE contract, development of warrant article language on municipal buildings, warrant article 30 (solar warrant article), outreach on the net zero stretch code resolution and warrant article, website development for Electrify Arlington, establishment of champions for each CEFC measures, goal to participate on several Arlington Community Education. She thanked everyone for the considerable work this past year.

Turning to priorities for the coming year. The CEFC has both carry-over goals from 2022, and new items we want to add.

#### *Carryover items include:*

- Municipal building warrant article. Develop language on which Town body reviews technical analyses submitted in support of exemptions. Bring the warrant article to Town Meeting (pending review of opt in net zero stretch code).
- Support Connect Arlington, Zero Emissions Fleet policy.
- If opt in stretch code finalized, go to Town Meeting to approve stretch code.
- Continue work on Electrify Arlington.
- HDC conversation on how to remove barriers

Ms. Dein states that if the opt in stretch code is approved, we will want to evaluate whether the municipal building article is needed. Mr. Benson stated the Town needs to think about electric infrastructure and electrifying the Town's fleet.

#### *New items could include:*

- Mr. Amstutz attended a FHWA webinar on national electric vehicle program and each state has to create an EV infrastructure plan this summer and designate high priority corridors with charging. On electric bikes, the legislature has a bill reported out of joint transportation committee on electric bikes so more can be done around at the local level on electric bikes.
- Ms. Dein stated we don't have a stable bus yard where charging stations and bi-directional charging can be installed. This could be a priority. Ms. Fox is discussing this topic with those who manage the fleet in Arlington and planning ahead for charging and parking locations.
- Mr. Morgan stated on rental properties that encouraging landlords to switch to clean electricity supply should be a priority.
- Mr. Miettinen stated the importance of finding where the biggest impacts are. Biggest impacts come from heating systems, water heating, and vehicles – we need to stay focused on the biggest emitters. Mr. Miettinen said that there may be a set of buildings that are the best candidates for upgrading. Ms. Fox said that we could create a list of those properties and conduct outreach to targeted properties as part of the Electrify Arlington pilot.
- Ms. Cooper showed ideas that the CEFC discussed over the past year – Ms. Cooper and Ms. Fox can work on an excel sheet on quantification of impacts. Ms. Fox stated we should try to incorporate metrics into spreadsheet that already exists. Ms. Dein stated she agrees about going after items that are most impactful. She added, the CEFC should prioritize electrifying police vehicles or convert to hybrids since these vehicles use a significant amount of fuel in the municipal fleet.
- Ms. Cooper stated the list of ideas shown and developed from prior CEFC meetings is focused on publicizing the work of the CEFC and outreach on the successes of the Committee.
- Ms. Cooper and Ms. Fox to work on a press release on the solar warrant article (follow-up – this was created but it was not allowed).
- Mr. Benson mentioned amending requirements as part of environmental design review so zoning board can require net zero buildings.
- Mr. Benson also suggested insert in zoning bylaw to require compliance with the net zero action plan as they apply to buildings. Ms. Fox stated the need for this requirement will need to be re-evaluated once the opt in stretch code is finalized.
- Mr. Levy would work with others on getting off of the gas and oil connection.

Ms. Cooper said the CEFC will put a follow up agenda item for June on priorities.

Ms. Cooper noted the substantial contributions by Adam Chapdelaine to the CEFC and more generally to sustainability efforts of the Town over the years. Other members of the CEFC agreed. In addition, Jenny Rait is leaving the Town this month and was enormously helpful to CEFC efforts including WA 30 and WA 38 among many others. Thanks to Jenny for all her work and contributions.

The Meeting ended at 9:30 am.

Submitted by Coralie Cooper.